2. NON-TECHNICAL ABSTRACT:

We propose to study the safety and biological effects of a genetically engineered vaccine to treat advanced adenocarcinoma in patients who have failed standard therapy. There is no standard therapy available to cure patients with advanced adenocarcinoma. Studies in animals suggest that vaccines made out of modified viruses may be useful for helping the immune system fight certain cancers. The vaccinia virus has been modified to contain the gene for CEA, a protein found in adenocarcinoma. Animals have been injected with this agent and have developed an immune response against CEA. Other studies have demonstrated the ability of tumors to be recognized by the immune system only after adding B7.1 protein to the tumor cells. This study seeks to combine a tumor antigen, CEA, with the B7.1 co-stimulatory protein, in a viral vector, ALVAC, to be used as a vaccine in patients with advanced adenocarcinoma. It will evaluate the safety of this agent as well as its ability to elicit an immune response.